

General questions

Why should I get my qualification recognized?

You should apply for recognition of your foreign university degree if you would like to pursue a regulated profession. The equivalence assessment and recognition of your university degree is a requirement for accessing and practicing regulated professions. Only if your degree is recognized as fully equivalent will you have the same rights as holders of German university degrees to practice the corresponding profession.

Do I receive a German university degree with the recognition?

No, you will not receive a German university degree. You will receive an equivalency notice with your recognition.

Do all foreign degrees have to be recognized?

Formal recognition is only necessary for professions that are regulated in the state of Hesse or Germany. A profession is regulated when a specific qualification is a legal requirement to practice it. This includes the professions of social worker, childhood educator, teacher for special needs education and specialist in day care facilities for children.

Non-regulated professions, such as mathematicians, economists or journalists, do not require recognition, and allow immediate access to the job market.

You can find out whether your profession is regulated or not on the website www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de. If you have a foreign degree in a non-regulated profession, you can request a statement of comparability by the Central Office for Foreign Education (see <https://zab.kmk.org/de/zeugnisbewertung>).

Who is eligible to apply for recognition at Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts?

As of April 1, 2012, all persons with a foreign professional qualification have the right to an equivalence assessment to determine whether their foreign professional qualification is equivalent to the corresponding German professional qualification.

If you have a foreign higher education degree in one of the following areas or fields, you can submit an application for recognition at Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts:

- Specialist in day care facilities for children (university degree with a focus in pedagogy)
- State-recognized social worker
- State-recognized teacher for special needs education
- State-recognized childhood educator

I would like to study in the state of Hesse. Where can I apply for the recognition of my higher education entrance qualification and/or my coursework from foreign universities?

In general, the recognition of foreign qualifications as higher education entrance qualification and/or the recognition of coursework from foreign universities is the responsibility of the

university you would like to study at. Find more information at [study-in-hessen.de](https://www.study-in-hessen.de) or the university websites.

Find more information on the recognition of coursework on the [website](#) of Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts.

How can I meet other international professionals and create a network?

Visit one of the regional wine locales or a typical restaurant in Frankfurt for one of our regular meet and greets to chat with other international professionals.

The regular meet-ups are great to meet like-minded people from around the world and from Hesse and just chat and network. The meet and greets are open to anybody who is interested.

Find more [information and upcoming events](#).

Questions about the application

I do not live in Hesse. Am I still eligible to apply for recognition at Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts?

In general, you have to apply for recognition in the state in which you have registered your residence and would like to practice your profession.

I am currently living outside the EU (this includes Switzerland and other countries of the European Economic Area). I am not a national of any of these countries. Am I eligible to apply for recognition at Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts?

You can submit an application. In this case, please prove your intention to pursue employment that corresponds to your qualification (e.g. by applying for a job seeker visa, contacting potential employers in Hesse or drawing up a business plan for self-employment, proof of consultation by the ZSBA).

We recommend you to contact the Service Center for Professional Recognition (ZSBA). The service center advises recognition seekers that are still abroad and supports their application procedure. Find the ZSBA contact details on the website [make-it-in-Germany.de](https://www.make-it-in-Germany.de).

When is it recommended to apply for both recognition as specialist in day care facilities for children and state recognition?

In general, it is not advisable to submit more than one application, as professional recognition is generally granted for only one of the professions listed. In most cases, any additional applications will be rejected. To limit costs, please seek help from a recognition service center BEFORE submitting any application. The service center will advise you on the most promising approach in your case. Do not submit any application until you got counseling.

Only in exceptional cases and with specific degrees, e.g. if you completed university degrees in both pedagogy and social work, you can apply for two recognitions at the same time.

What are the differences between specialist in day care facilities for children and state-recognized childhood educator?

Both titles qualify you to work in day care facilities for children. However, there are differences:

➤ **Differences in compensation measures**

For specialists in day care facilities for children, the compensation measure is an adaptation period. During this adaptation period, the individuals work in a certified Hessian day care facility under supervision. In general, the adaptation periods last 12 months full time (37 hs/week). If the case, existing relevant professional experience in German day care facilities can be transferred, if corresponding proof is presented with the application.

The compensation measures for childhood educators will be defined and carried out by the Institute of School Education and Social Science Education at Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU). The significant differences between the German and foreign higher education qualification must be compensated with completed courses at Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU). In general, an adaptation year according to section 2 of the Social Professions Recognition Act (SozAnerkG) must be completed.

➤ **Differences in validity**

Professional recognition for specialists in day care facilities for children is issued at state level and the certificate is only valid in the state of Hesse. If you move to another German state, you must check whether your recognition can be transferred.

Childhood educators receive a state recognition. It is issued by the state of Hesse, but is valid in all of Germany.

I have completed a foreign qualification as elementary school teacher. Will my application for recognition as specialist in day care facilities for children be successful?

No, the recognition of a primary school teacher degree is not the responsibility of Hochschule RheinMain – University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The recognition of teaching qualifications, independent of the profession you would like to pursue, is the responsibility of the [Hessische Lehrkräfteakademie](#) in Gießen. Applications for recognition of foreign teaching qualifications can only be submitted to the Lehrkräfteakademie.

After obtaining recognition as a primary school teacher, you may, pursuant to section 25b (1) no. 10 and no. 11 of the Hessian Child and Youth Welfare Code (HKJGB), work either in primary or special education or as specialist in day care facilities for children.

How long does the application assessment take?

As soon as the documents are complete, your application will be assessed and you will generally receive notice on your application within 12 weeks (decision period).

The decision period does not start until all necessary documents are submitted. We recommend preparing all necessary documents prior to submitting the application.

If the application is missing necessary proof, the decision period might be prolonged due to an additional qualification analysis.

In case the decision period cannot be met, it can be prolonged once according to para. 13 sec. 3 p. 3 of the Hessian Professional Qualifications Assessment Act (HBQFG), if there is a justified reason, such as a pending assessment by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB).

Who can I ask about recognition issues?

If you have not yet submitted an application, we recommend contacting a recognition advisory service first. Find more information [here](#)

Find more general information on recognition on the website [Recognition in Germany](#).

If you have already submitted an application, you can send us an email with questions to [anerkennung_aeb\(at\)hs-rm.de](mailto:anerkennung_aeb(at)hs-rm.de).

You will receive a response from a member of our team shortly. Due to the high volume of applications and inquiries, we may not always be able to respond immediately. Thank you for your patience.

What do I have to do after receiving the decision?

- **You have received a recognition notice as specialist in day care facilities for children and you are required to complete a compensation measure of several months:**

Find a daycare, after-school care, or other early education facility where you can spend the specified time. Your recognition notice lists organizations that can help you find an employer for the compensation measure.

You do not have to attend a higher education institution during this time!

- **You have received a recognition notice as state-recognized social worker, teacher for special needs education or childhood educator and have to complete compensation measures:**

Report to the specified higher education institution that provides the compensation measures.

For recognition as state recognized childhood educator or teacher for special needs education, you will find the contact details in the assessment notice, see section 2.

There are currently no compensation measures available in Hesse for recognition as a state-recognized social worker. A new program is currently being developed by the Hessian universities in cooperation with the Hessian Ministry of Science and Research, Arts and Culture (HMWK). The recognition notice indicates the current status.